PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application Confirmation No. 7458

Inventor(s) Auer et al Group: 1632

Application No. 10/591,045, filed Aug. 29, 2006

(Case Docket No. 22388)

Examiner: M. Allen

For: METHOD FOR THE RECOMBINANT EXPRESSION OF AN N-TERMINAL FRAGMENT OF HEPATOCYTE GROWTH FACTOR

AMENDMENT WITH PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Nutley, New Jersey 07110 December 23, 2008

Mail Stop: Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment and response are in response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2008, in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully request a three (3) month extension of time. With the extension of time, this Amendment is timely filed.

In response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2008, Claims 1-4 stand pending. Please amend Claims 1-4 and please add new claims 5-6 as reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Accordingly, please amend the above-identified application as follows: